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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A. Washington, D.C.

SS-278

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Highlights of January Crop Report

Corn stocks on farms January 1, 1966, estimated at 3.1 billion bushels, were 11 percent more than a year earlier and 3 percent above the 1960-64 average.

Wheat stocks on farms, placed at 408 million bushels, were 5 percent above a year earlier and 18 percent more than average.

Oats stocks on farms totaled 680 million bushels, up 9 percent from January 1, 1965 but 4 percent below average.

Soybean farm stocks, estimated at 284 million bushels, were 48 percent more than a year earlier and 28 percent above average.

Sorghum grain stocks on farms totaled 215 million bushels, up 38 percent from January 1, 1965 and 17 percent from average.

Barley farm stocks totaled 195 million bushels, up 3 percent from 1965 but 3 percent below average.

Flaxseed stocks on farms, estimated at 14 million bushels, were 62 percent more than a year earlier and 54 percent above average.

Hay on farms totaled 87 million tons, 13 percent more than a year earlier and 7 percent above average.

Citrus production is expected to be up 10 percent from last year's crop. The 1965-66 orange crop is expected to total 132 million boxes, 9 percent more than the 1964-65 crop and 14 percent above average. The grapefruit crop, at 46 million boxes, is 12 percent above last year and 17 percent more than average.

have dwindled, and dry topsoils are limiting growth of winter grains and pastures. Precipitation was normal in the Florida-Georgia border area.

The North Central region had above normal precipitation, mostly toward the end of the month. Farmers were able to complete harvest of late crops except for scattered areas in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

Fall seeded grains maintained the earlier good conditions in the Northern Plains. Top growth provided good protection against wind erosion, but more snow cover will be welcome. Rains aided development of wheat fields in Kansas and Oklahoma and firmed dry soils. Showers missed dryland wheat areas in Texas and New Mexico, where the crop needs a good soaking. The mild December weather permitted wheat plants to get set in the Corn Belt, where seeding was delayed by late harvest of corn and soybeans. In the Pacific Northwest wheat continued to develop well until colder weather arrived about mid-December.

Favorable Weather Winds-Up 1965 Harvest

According to the Crop Reporting Board, mild December weather favored the wind-up of the 1965 harvest over most of the Nation. Heavy rains caused flooding in the extreme Southwest, but early winter precipitation missed the dry Eastern coast. Livestock, reported in fine condition, were making good use of crop residues and pastures. Supplemental feeding was below normal, especially in the Plains States.

Most of the Nation was warmer than usual during December, but below normal temperatures were common west of the Rockies and in parts of the East South Central States. Temperatures in the North Central Region were 6 to 10 degrees above normal, in sharp contrast to subnormal readings in December 1964. A cold wave spread from the Rocky Mountains into central States about mid-month, although temperatures were not extreme. The attendant snow lasted only a few days over much of the Plains area. Snow cover at the end of the month was limited to States along the Canadian Border.

Rainfall in the drought area along the Middle and North Atlantic coast fell farther behind normal and subsoil moisture reserves for 1966 crops need to be replenished. In South Atlantic areas, favorable moisture supplies of September

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average Farm Gate Prices		Effective Parity Prices Based on Data for Dec. 1965
	November 1965	December 1965	
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)..... ct.	29.02	27.93	42.15
Wheat (bu.)..... dol.	1.38	1.40	2.58
Rice (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.93	5.10	6.64
Corn (bu.)..... dol.	.980	1.08	1.58
Peanuts (lb.)..... ct.	11.3	11.3	14.6
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Milkfat in cream (lb.)..... ct.	61.9	62.4	80.7
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.62	¹ 4.60	5.64
Wool (lb.)..... ct.	² 47.5	² 47.1	83.6
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.)..... dol.	1.02	1.03	1.26
Cottonseed (ton)..... dol.	46.40	47.80	63.50
Flaxseed (bu.)..... dol.	2.72	2.71	3.89
Hay, baled (ton)..... dol.	23.20	23.90	³ --
Oats (bu.)..... dol.	.621	.633	.859
Potatoes (cwt.)..... dol.	1.85	1.90	2.65
Rye (bu.)..... dol.	.966	.947	1.40
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.)..... dol.	1.75	1.79	2.49
Soybeans (bu.)..... dol.	2.36	2.48	3.07
Sweetpotatoes (cwt.)..... dol.	3.89	4.65	6.09
Oranges, on tree (box)..... dol.	1.26	1.61	3.56
Apples, for fresh use (bu.)... dol.	2.40	2.49	3.21
Beef cattle (100 lb.)..... dol.	19.80	20.30	25.90
Calves (100 lb.)..... dol.	22.40	23.20	29.70
Hogs (100 lb.)..... dol.	23.20	26.80	21.60
Lambs (100 lb.)..... dol.	22.40	24.10	25.70
Chickens, all (lb.)..... ct.	13.9	13.9	22.4
Eggs (dozen)..... ct.	37.7	40.9	48.6

¹ Preliminary ² Does not include incentive payment ³ Unpublished

Feed Grain Stocks High

Farm stocks of the four feed grains on January 1 were 12 percent more than a year earlier and 3 percent above average. Stocks of all wheat on farms were 5 percent larger than last year. Soybeans held on farms were at record levels--48 percent more than last year, 28 percent above average, and 9 percent above the previous high on January 1, 1964. Farm stocks of hay were at near-record levels, 13 percent more than last year but 1 percent less than the previous high in 1959.

Milk Production 1 Percent Below Yearly Record

December milk production in the United States is estimated at 9,592 million pounds, 4 percent below the record high set in December 1964. Preliminary monthly estimates of milk production for 1965 total 125,463 million pounds, about 1 percent less than the record-high annual output of 1964.

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture					
Item	1964		1965		
	Dec.	Ann.Av.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹ ..	66.6	65.6	68.2	68.7	69.1
Farm employment.....	4.4	6.1	6.4	5.1	4.2
Family.....	3.6	4.5	4.6	3.9	3.4
Hired.....	.8	1.6	1.8	1.2	.8
	index number (1957-59 = 100)				
Industrial production ²	138	132	144	146	148
Total personal income payments ³	140	136	148	150	151
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	132	125	141	142	144
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	127	122	129	130	132
Wholesale prices, all commodities ⁴	101	100	103	104	104
Farm commodities.....	93	94	99	100	103
Food, processed.....	101	101	107	108	109
Consumer price index ⁴	109	108	110	111	---
Food.....	107	106	110	110	---
	index numbers (1910-14 = 100)				
Prices received by farmers.....	234	236	248	248	259
Crops.....	234	238	220	218	223
Food grains.....	168	190	164	167	170
Feed grains and hay.....	171	166	161	156	166
Cotton.....	247	262	248	245	236
Tobacco.....	495	490	527	526	550
Oil bearing crops.....	273	256	244	246	255
Fruit.....	268	298	241	215	228
Commercial vegetables.....	241	246	236	258	259
Livestock and products.....	234	235	273	274	289
Meat animals.....	261	270	332	332	356
Dairy products.....	271	256	277	279	280
Poultry and eggs.....	139	142	150	154	164
Prices paid by farmers.....					
All commodities.....	283	282	288	289	291
Used in living.....	301	300	305	307	309
Used in production.....	269	270	276	276	278
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index)	313	313	322	322	324
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted.....	694	693	746	746	746
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index).....	75	76	77	77	80

¹ Bureau of the Census. ² Federal Reserve Board. ³ Department of Commerce. ⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics - any figures not available at press time omitted.

The number of hired farm workers in December reached a new low of 772,000. This was 2 percent fewer workers than in the comparable week a year earlier and nearly a third less than in November 1965.

The effects of mechanical harvesters and other labor saving devices for harvesting numerous vegetable and field crops are evident when the annual average numbers of workers in 1965 are compared with 1964 and the 5-year average. The 1965 annual average number of all workers is 8 percent lower than 1964 and 19 percent below

Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings, by States, November 1965 ¹			
State	Livestock and Products	Crops	Total
NORTH ATLANTIC REGION			
1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.	
Maine	10,973	4,095	15,068
New Hampshire	3,677	946	4,623
Vermont	9,847	941	10,788
Massachusetts	8,757	11,525	20,282
Rhode Island	1,051	1,227	2,278
Connecticut	8,432	10,506	18,938
New York	56,132	22,426	78,558
New Jersey	11,131	11,582	22,713
Pennsylvania	51,991	15,900	67,891
NORTH CENTRAL REGION			
Ohio	61,600	45,110	106,710
Indiana	62,904	57,058	119,962
Illinois	123,571	135,121	258,692
Michigan	36,502	34,003	70,505
Wisconsin	85,631	17,966	103,597
Minnesota	105,468	45,234	150,702
Iowa	229,016	71,402	300,418
Missouri	85,014	60,318	145,332
North Dakota	32,075	51,250	83,325
South Dakota	63,396	12,255	75,651
Nebraska	86,631	56,802	143,433
Kansas	69,020	40,015	109,035
SOUTHERN REGION			
Delaware	6,620	7,439	14,059
Maryland	17,668	10,892	28,560
Virginia	27,090	47,378	74,468
West Virginia	8,699	2,111	10,810
North Carolina	35,276	108,281	143,557
South Carolina	10,905	44,935	55,840
Georgia	42,845	37,078	79,923
Florida	20,571	38,277	58,848
Kentucky	37,216	38,613	75,829
Tennessee	29,214	60,751	89,965
Alabama	32,272	48,649	80,921
Mississippi	29,926	111,842	141,768
Arkansas	35,526	88,264	123,790
Louisiana	15,300	71,291	86,591
Oklahoma	38,646	32,827	71,473
Texas	108,587	175,913	284,500
WESTERN REGION			
Montana	49,484	22,178	71,662
Idaho	20,757	53,410	74,167
Wyoming	20,846	6,182	27,028
Colorado	58,804	28,630	87,434
New Mexico	25,659	20,136	45,795
Arizona	16,538	47,758	64,296
Utah	14,652	7,486	22,138
Nevada	5,747	1,435	7,182
Washington	18,443	49,496	67,939
Oregon	24,184	29,740	53,924
California	124,384	311,032	435,416
UNITED STATES ⁵	2,078,678	2,207,706	4,286,384
United States, Jan.-Nov.	19,861,636	15,369,653	35,231,289
Same Period, year ago ²	18,143,605	15,278,003	34,419,608

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. ² Revised.

STAT SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

POTATOES PUSH THROUGH

Potato output in the United States increased dramatically last year after having dropped sharply in 1964 to its lowest level in nearly a decade. A record yield of 206 cwt. per acre and an 8 percent increase in harvested acreage, pushed production 21 percent over 1964 to the third highest on record and 8 percent above the 1959-63 average.

Harvested acreage in 1964 was the lowest in nearly a century and the yield lowest since 1960. But high prices for potatoes in 1964 and early 1965 encouraged farmers to increase planting to the largest in four years. Weather during the 1965 growing season generally was favorable, compared with drought in many areas the year before.

Except for the United States, all major potato producing regions of the world--Russia, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe--reduced potato output in 1965 from the year before. Production in both Russia and Eastern Europe was well below the 5-year average.

The trend for U.S. exports is up, returning us from the net import position we assumed in 1964 to that of net exporters once again.

White Potatoes: Acreage, Production, Trade

Item	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
Acreage planted (1,000 acres)	1,436	1,334	1,362	1,408	1,527	1,410
Acreage harvested (1,000 acres)	1,403	1,294	1,347	1,376	1,496	1,397
Yield per acre (cwt.)	206	185	201.8	193.8	196.3	184.3
Production (million cwt.)	289	239	272	267	294	257
Domestic Export (1,000 cwt.)	¹ 1,623	1,470	3,259	3,359	2,347	2,307
Consumption Import (1,000 cwt.)	¹ 1,432	2,733	728	912	871	715

¹ Totals January-November, 1965, includes seed seed.

STAT SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS is a new feature--an attempt to highlight a timely topic or explain some pertinent facts related to agricultural statistics. We hope to include it frequently--monthly, if possible.

Avocado Production Up

California's production of fall and winter variety avocados (including Fuerte) is forecast at 32,000 tons, 2-1/2 times last year's output. Harvest was active through December and movement increased

Livestock and Livestock Products				
Item	Unit	Jan.-Nov. 1964	Jan.-Nov. 1965	
Dairy Production				
Milk	Bil. lb.	¹ 126.6	¹ 125.5	
Evaporated whole milk	Mil. lb.	1,760.8	1,571.0	
Dry Nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	Mil. lb.	1,999.6	1,868.3	
Butter, creamery	Mil. lb.	1,321.5	1,246.8	
Cheese, American	Mil. lb.	1,073.1	1,079.2	
Ice Cream	Mil. gal.	686.3	701.6	
Poultry Production				
Eggs	Billions	¹ 64.5	¹ 64.8	
Federally inspected slaughter ²				
Chickens.....	Mil. lb.	4,822.8	5,154.8	
Turkeys.....	Mil. lb.	1,110.2	1,177.6	
Poultry used for further processing	Mil. lb.	572.7	672.9	
Liquid egg	Mil. lb.	623.7	597.9	
Dried egg (egg solids).....	Mil. lb.	49.4	47.2	
Frozen egg	Mil. lb.	361.5	351.6	
Meat Production (dressed weight) ³				
Beef	Mil. lb.	16,477	16,732	
Veal	Mil. lb.	851	863	
Pork	Mil. lb.	10,901	9,874	
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	645	587	
Total red meat	Mil. lb.	28,874	28,056	

¹ January-December. ² Ready-to-cook. ³ Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

the latter part of the month. Approximately 15 percent of the crop had been harvested by December 31.

Trend Toward Smaller Work Force

The trend toward fewer workers on the Nation's farms continued through December 1965. During the December 19-25 survey week, the farm work force totaled 4,210,000 persons, 3 percent fewer workers than the same period a year earlier and a record low for the month. Effects of the holiday and seasonal slowdowns are apparent when the December total is compared with the 1965 peak of over 6.8 million farm workers reported during the June survey.

Farm operators and family members working without wages on home farms during the week of December 19-25 numbered 3,438,000 persons--4 percent under the comparable week in 1964 and 12 percent below a month earlier.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads				
Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-Food Products				
Year and Month	Retail Cost ¹	Farm Value ²	Farm-Retail Spread	Farmer's Share
1964 average	\$1,015	\$373	\$642	37%
1965 September	1,051	414	637	39%
1965 October	1,048	416	632	40%
1965 November	1,048	415	633	40%

¹ Retail cost of average quantities purchased per household in 1960-61 by urban wage-earner and clerical-worker families and single workers living alone, calculated from retail prices collected by the Bur. Labor Statistics. ² Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

Cash Receipts From Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketings, United States¹

Item	November 1965	December 1965
CASH RECEIPTS	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Total marketings and CCC loans ²	4,287	3,700
Livestock and products	2,079	1,900
Meat animals.....	1,309	
Dairy products	410	
Poultry and eggs	348	
Other.....	11	
Crops	2,208	1,800
Food grains.....	119	
Feed crops.....	502	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	544	
Oil-bearing crops.....	335	
Tobacco.....	106	
Vegetables	184	
Fruits and tree nuts	114	
Other	303	
Government payments	83	
Grand total	4,370	
VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS:	1957-59 = 100	
All commodities.....	160	132
Livestock and products.....	129	113
Crops	200	158

¹ For comparison with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

² Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month. Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

average. Since hiring foreign workers has been restricted by the repeal of Public Law 78, the use of mechanical harvesters has increased considerably. Although the number of workers on farms during 1965 was at a record low, a new high was set in total crop production. The all crop production index of 117 (1957-59 = 100) for 1965 is 6 percent higher than in the previous year and 4 percent above the high in 1963.

Wage Rates Reach New Levels in 1965

Farm wage rates have been increasing consistently; during 1965 they increased more than in

other recent years. The 1965 annual composite hourly rate, including cash payments for all hiring arrangements, averaged 95.1 cents, an increase of 5 percent over 1964. A year-to-year advance of 5 percent was recorded in only one year since 1951-52 when pressures of the Korean war contributed to considerable increases. The U.S. rate per hour without board or room averaged \$1.14 in 1965, an increase of 6 percent over the previous year. Wage rates for other principal hiring arrangements made similar advances in 1965.

Wage rates at the beginning of 1966 continued the upward trend. The January 1 composite hourly rate, at \$1.06, was 5 percent higher than for the same date in 1965. All rates reported are from the Department's crop and livestock reporters for rates paid, in their localities or on their own farms. This does not include prerequisites--values of housing, food, or other items which may be furnished by the employer.

Christmas Season Slowed Farm Activities During Survey Week

As Christmas neared, the pace of farm activities slowed and farm families paused to celebrate the season.

Yuletide brought harvest to a close in most cotton-producing States east of the Mississippi. Harvest was at a standstill during the survey week in Arizona and California; limited progress was made in New Mexico and Texas as weather permitted.

Pruning and dormant spraying of California fruit and grape plantings continued, but at a slower pace because of poor weather. Navel orange picking also slowed. Grapefruit harvest was increasing in the Desert Valley area. Production is expected to exceed both last year and the average for oranges, grapefruit, and tangelos.

William T. Schanger, Editor